

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description: V. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

2. Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

Claim Objections

3. Claim 25 is objected to because of the following informalities: "seating" is incorrect. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5. Claims 14, 26, 28, 29, and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

6. Claim 14 recites the limitation "said separating portion" in line 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

7. Claim 26 recites the limitation "said extendable sealing means" in line 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

8. Claim 28 recites the limitation "said adjustable sealing means" in line 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

9. Claims 29 and 31 are rejected because of the use of the term "it", which creates confusion though ambiguity. What does "it" specifically refer to?

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

10. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

11. Claims 1, 2, 7-9, 14, 15, 17-20, 23, 24, 26, 28-33, 35, and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bean et al (4268235).

Bean teaches a device for dry forming a web of fibers comprising a fiber distribution head, a forming wire (19) movable under the head, and a suction means (22) located on the opposite side of the forming wire from the head, the head comprising a chamber into which a flow of gas and fibers flows from diffusers (17), the chamber having a bottom opening closed by a screen mesh (18) which is essentially parallel to the forming wire and made to be continuous and movable along a closed path of adjustable (inherent) rollers (20), and adjustable (inherent) agitator members (24) having independent bidirectional motors (Column 2, lines 63-66) in side the chamber arranged above the screen mesh and having shaped profiles (Figure 5) with at least one point.

Allowable Subject Matter

12. Claims 3-6, 10-13, 16, 21, 22, 25, 27, 34, 37, and 38 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

13. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Eriksen et al (6233787), Miller (4212607), and Kroyer (3575749) all teach what is well known in the art.

14. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shaun R. Hurley whose telephone number is (571) 272-4986. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Fri, 8:00 am - 4:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gary Welch can be reached on (571) 272-4996. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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SRH
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